

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY

U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(release on receipt)

SUBJECT: Branch Out with Strawberries....Information from gardening specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture

-0-

Do you like strawberries? Can't get enough of them? Then maybe you're planning to branch out a bit in your gardening and grow some for yourself. Many gardeners do.

The gardening specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture say strawberries 'll grow almost anywhere in the country...except in the very dry parts of the West. And spring is a good time to put them out.

If growing strawberries is a little new to you...perhaps you'd like these pointers the specialists gave me.

First....strawberries like high hills in most places. And for a good reason. Cold air settles...you see...and late spring frosts bite hardest on low ground. Since the plants are so close to the ground, they're often hurt by frosts that don't even touch blossoms on fruit trees. So if you can....try to put your plants on high ground.

Next...strawberries need plenty of moisture. But wet soil is bad for them. The plants grow slowly during the summer in wet ground. They're more likely to develop disease. Then too...if that wet ground freezes next fall and winter...your plants may be killed before you reap any of your harvest. Be sure you have well--drained soil to grow your strawberries.

Then one more point. Strawberries not only grow almost anywhere...they also grow in almost any soil. They thrive in coarse sand and they thrive in heavy clay. But they need lots of humus to produce lots of fruit. The wise gardener will have plenty of organic matter in the ground where she puts her strawberry plants.

Of course...each climate and soil has its favorite varieties of strawberries.. The best way to find out what variety will suit your garden is to ask your county agent or your local victory garden leader. Or you can write the state college. They'll tell you.

#



